

and just at this time arrived the invitation from Margaret. While his father was preparing a few instructions, he, in hasty though most affectionate language penned a note to Miss De Vere, stating the circumstances which had occurred, and that he would necessarily be absent some days. Having folded and sealed it, he was at that instant called by his father who had finished writing his instructions, and desired to mount his horse, which a servant was holding saddled and bridled ready at the door, and away. As he mounted, he hastily said to the servant, "Take a note you will find on my table and leave it at the house of Canon De Vere,"—forgetting, that in the hurry of the moment, he had neglected to direct it. The servant finding no other than that, took it and arrived at the house of the Canon at the very instant that he opened the door, to proceed on his way to church for the afternoon service, and to whom he delivered the note. On breaking the seal the Canon was surprised to find it addressed to his daughter, and still more so at the stile of address. Had it been simply "To Miss De Vere," or any ordinary mode, he would have closed and given it, without reading, to her. But his curiosity being excited by the address, the evident haste in which it was written, and the absence which at first he noticed, of any direction, induced him to read it to its end.

The effects on the Canon by the contents of this note, were of a character altogether different to those generally produced on persons who unexpectedly make discoveries of a similar nature; no sudden outbreak of passion, no feeling of anger toward either of the parties concerned; but a train of reflections succeeded, which caused him to consider, if any one, himself the person on whom blame should fall. The recollection of many past circumstances now came upon him, which, though he witnessed them, at the time of their occurrence he then thought nothing of; he now perceived their cause, and connexion with the subject of his present discovery. He remembered the embarrassment of Margaret and Lionel on the occasion of his proposition, that Lionel should visit, for the purpose of singing with her; the extraordinary delight and warmth of feeling which she exhibited on his first visit, and, added to these, when he considered the affectionate, ardent and amiable dispositions of both, the opportunities he himself had allowed, by suffering them to be so much in each others company with none beside, for an attachment engendered in youthful friendship to ripen into

a passionate and firm affection;—he lamented his past want of caution, and resolved for the future, to endeavour to exercise a double share

Thus determined, his first step was to discover, if possible, how far this intercourse had been carried; and the most prudent course to adopt, in order to bring it at once to a termination in the least possible painful manner. When the Canon returned home, he found Margaret arranging the apartment as she usually did, when expecting Lionel on any of the visits by her father's special invitation. Carefully and anxiously regarding her, without allowing her to notice it; he enquired according to his request, she had sent an invitation to Lionel. She replied she had done so, and he had sent a verbal message, that a written answer would be returned, that none had been received by her; but as she supposed that some mistake had arisen, or that Lionel had afterwards deemed a written answer unnecessary, as she still expected, so she intended to be prepared to receive him. The intention of the Canon being to discover the state of her heart, with regard to Lionel; in a manner purposed to impress her with an idea that something dreadful had happened to him, said "I fear we shall not see Lionel this evening." A deadly paleness overspread her countenance as she trembling and anxiously enquired the reason. "Have you not heard," replied he to her father, "that circumstances have occurred which have obliged him suddenly to leave the city?" Scarcely had he finished the question, when, as if an arrow had passed through her heart, she uttered a piercing shriek and fell apparently lifeless at his feet. Greatly alarmed and agitated, the Canon raised, placed her on a couch and violently ringing the bell, a man servant appeared who was despatched for a physician, while the Canon, assisted by a female domestic, endeavoured by every means in their power to restore his daughter to animation. The physician, whose residence was but at a short distance, arrived before they had accomplished her restoration to consciousness; but by proper treatment he soon succeeded in so doing. At first she opened her eyes, gazed wildly around the apartment as if in search of some particular object; then fixed her gaze long and steadfastly on her father, then on the physician. At last seeming suddenly to recollect the cause of her present condition, her bosom heaved convulsively and a violent flood of tears came to her relief. While in this state she was, by order of the physician, removed to her chamber; and he, prescribing and prom-